

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested. Entry of this Amendment Under Rule 116 is merited as it raises no new issues and requires no further search.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough review of the present claimed subject matter.

Claims 8-14, 16, 17, 19-22, 24-27, 29, and 30 remain pending.

The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter with respect to claims 15 and 23 is noted with appreciation.

Without acquiescing to any of the Examiner's rejections and solely to expedite prosecution of the present application, claims 15 and 23 are cancelled and the limitations incorporated into claims 11 and 19, respectively. Claim 8 has been amended similar to the amendment of claim 11 and defines over the applied references in a similar fashion.

The rejection of claims 11-14 and 16-17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hamirani (U.S. Patent 5,673,174) in view of Johnson (U.S. Patent 3,803,670) is believed overcome in view of the above claim amendments. However, Applicant points out that Hamirani fails to anticipate the present claimed subject matter. Hamirani fails to disclose a cover panel and instead discloses an access panel in a side panel for enabling access to the interior of a computer system. Cover panel 32 of Hamirani is, in reality, an extension of the system unit cover 30 as without cover panel 32 the interior of the system unit would be exposed. That is, system unit cover 30 of Hamirani is incomplete

without cover panel 32. Hamirani refers to the cover panel 32 as a socket access cover and a door thereby allowing access to the interior of the system unit. Hamirani at column 2, line 26. Based thereon, cover panel 32 is an element which completes the enclosing functionality of the system cover.

The rejection of claims 8-10, 19-22, 24-27, 29, and 30 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ward (U.S. Patent 5,826,882) in view of Johnson is believed overcome in view of the above claim amendments. However, Applicant points out that Ward is wholly inapplicable as a reference. The Examiner relies on base unit 50 of Ward which is a supporting stand for a slot machine bearing no relation whatsoever to a computer case. Notwithstanding the Examiner's assertion to the contrary, a computer case must bear some relation to a computer which Ward does not.

Additionally, the Examiner's combination of Ward with Johnson is not understood as Johnson describes a releasably retained fastener device whereas the attaching means of the Ward side panels are removably locking means. That is, the Johnson fasteners are relatively easily removed "without the use of any tools" (Johnson at column 1, line 15) while the panels 77 of Ward are removable, yet securely, attached via "bolts, screws, or other removable locking means" (Ward at column 8, lines 7, 8). The difference is important as the panels 77 of Ward enclose a space in the cabinet for receiving a coin bucket accepting excess coins from the slot machine positioned above. Thus, a person of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to use an easily removable fastener to retain a cover for an area holding money. While the Examiner might be correct that fastening the panels together without the use of tools as in Johnson may "conserv[e] time . . . and sav[e] money" during assembly, Applicants fail to believe that any person would seriously consider reducing any amount of security already available regarding money.

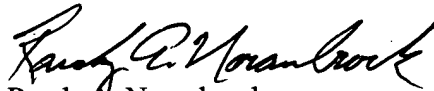
Early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is courteously solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 08-2025 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy A. Noranbrock", written in a cursive style.

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